

What is claimed is:

1. A method of retrieving desired phone number information using a network protocol, comprising the steps of:
 - a user entering into the electronic device a network address of a party whose phone number information is to be retrieved;
 - the electronic device sending a request to a server in accordance with the network protocol, the request containing a predicable variant of said address; and
 - the server sending the desired phone number to the electronic device.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the desired phone number information is a single phone number, comprising the further step of the electronic device automatically dialing the desired phone number.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the desired phone number information is a hypertext phone directory page, comprising the further step of the electronic device displaying the hypertext phone directory page.
4. The method of Claim 3, comprising the further steps of:
 - the user selecting a link within the hypertext phone directory page; and
 - the electronic device cooperating with the server to retrieve and display a further hypertext phone directory page.
5. The method of Claim 3, comprising the further steps of:
 - the user selecting a single phone number within the hypertext phone directory page; and
 - the electronic device automatically dialing the selected phone num-

a data processing core, including memory;

coupled to the data processing core:

a packet-switched telecommunications transceiver; and

I/O circuitry;

the combination further comprising stored program instructions within memory including instructions for:

receiving an address of a desired party entered by a user into the electronic device;

sending a request to a server in accordance with an Internet protocol, the request containing a predictable variant of said address; and

receiving from the server a communications string of the desired party.

14. A method of establishing communication with a party using an electronic device, comprising:

transparently prefacing the communication with a network communications exchange, established based on an electronic address of the party with which communication is to be established, to obtain information for communicating with said party; and

the electronic device being connected to communicate with said party using said information.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the information is a telephone number.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein the information is a cryptographic key.

17. The method of claim 14, comprising a user inputting to the electronic device the electronic address of the party with which communication is to be established.